MARVEL

17

LGY#182

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE TIE-IN

VENOM

DONNY CATES
IBAN COELLO
RAIN BEREDO

DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. THE TWO WERE JOINED AND USED THEIR COMBINED LUST FOR VIOLENCE TO MAKE THEIR CITY SAFER AS THE LETHAL PROTECTOR...

VENOM

YEARS AGO, THE OFFSPRING OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH THE SERIAL KILLER CLETUS KASADY, CREATING VENOM'S GREATEST FOE: CARNAGE.

BUT THE SYMBIOTE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH A CHILD; EDDIE NOW HAS A SON NAMED DYLAN.

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MY NAME IS EDDIE BROCK.

OUR NAME IS *VENOM.*

AND THIS IS THE DAY THAT WE DIE.

CARNAGE IS BACK.

POWERED UP BY KNULL'S DRAGON SYMBIOTE.

THE GRENDEL.

NOW HE'S HUNTING DOWN EVERYONE WHO'S EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE.

SPIDER-MAN AND I, WE CAME TO RAVENCROFT TO SAVE NORMAN OSBORN.

CLETUS SAW US COMING...TURNED THE INMATES INTO THESE...MONSTERS.

PETE'S FADING FAST. I CAN FEEL HIM SLOWING DOWN.

CAN STILL FEEL CLETUS DOWN THE HALL...CRAWLING AROUND IN MY BRAIN.

LAUGHING AS MY BONES BREAK.

I DON'T THINK WE'RE MAKING IT OUT OF THIS ONE.

AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

I THINK ABOUT THE PATH I'VE WALKED. THAT WE'VE WALKED.

HOW IT'S ALL LED TO THIS. DROWNING IN RED.

SWALLOWED BY THIS EVIL I CREATED.

AND I THINK ABOUT REGRETS.

ABOUT MY FATHER. ABOUT ANNE.

AND I THINK ABOUT MY SON.

HOW HE'LL NEVER KNOW THAT I WAS HIS FATHER.

MAYBE THAT'S FOR THE BEST...

MEANWHILE AT REX'S WAREHOUSE.

...BUT I WISH I HAD TOLD HIM THAT I LOVE HIM.

HE'S NOT HOME.

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Who?

EDDIE.

...

MY BROTHER?

VENOM?

Ah, yes.

I'm sure he will be fine.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

NO @#$$%&# CLUE.

YOU CURSED. I'M TELLING.

YEAH, YOU WOULD, SPIDER-BABY.

Aha! The machine is all done and ready to--

AHGHH!

GAH! YOUR BRAIN!

=sigh=

Yes, yes. My...cranial... augmentations must seem frightening to young eyes.

There.

All better.

Now, come here, children.

WHAT IS IT?

This...is a...well, I don't suppose it has a name yet.

But essentially it performs a symbiote codex isolation and thermo-heated extraction process.

In short, it removes the codex attached to the victim's DNA without killing them. The codex is then destroyed using a--

S.C.I.T.H.E.!

THAT'S ITS NAME. BECAUSE IT'S SYMBIOTE CODEX ISO--

Acronyms are for children and comic books.

Machines don't need *names.*

Okay, it's time.

You. Osborn child.

You're first.

HEY, NO. EDDIE AND SPIDER-MAN SAID THEY DIDN'T WANT NORMIE GOING INTO THE MACHINE UNTIL THEY TESTED IT FIRST!

And what if they do not return?

What if Cletus Kasady is on his way here right now? Hunting for anyone with a codex wrapped around their spine?

I, myself, would not want the life of an innocent child weighing on my soul.

Now, shall we--

NO! YOU'RE A @#$%&# CREEP AND I SAID NO!

YOU WANT NORMIE, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ***ME.***

I am not accustomed to being threatened by anyone, boy.

Especially when I am trying so desperately to save them.

Now, stand aside or--

OR *WHAT?* YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO SPIDER-MAN AND VENOM HOW YOU HURT TWO LITTLE KIDS TO DO SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS ON THEM?

HOW DO YOU SEE *THAT* GOING?

FOR SOMEONE SO SMART, YOU REALLY ARE PRETTY STUPID, YOU KNOW THAT?

Hmmmm.

You really are just like your--

BWWAAMP BWWAAMP BWWAAMP

Mmm?

Proximity alarms. What could--

BOOM

HELLO, GOBLIN CHILD

Ah. You must be the Life Foundation Symbiotes I've heard so little about.

Dylan, Normie, get behind me.

YOU THINK YOU CAN PROTECT THEM?

WE DON'T KNOW YOU, SCIENTIST. BUT WE WILL HAPPILY RIP OUT YOUR HEART FOR STANDING IN OUR WAY!

Oh.

You don't know me.

Hmphf.

You will.

COMPUTER ONLINE. COMMAND?

Kill all symbiotes.

VRRT

VRRT

VRRT

COMMAND ACCEPTED.

AAGH!

GAH!

RATATATATATATATA

Get to the armory. Lock the doors.

BUT... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO--

NOW!

COME ON, COME ON!

WAIT UP! WHERE ARE WE GOING?

THERE'S A SECRET ROOM IN HERE. MY BROTHER SHOWED ME THIS WHEN WE MOVED IN.

BUT WON'T WE BE TRAPPED? WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY GET IN?

IF THEY GET IN?

WE FIGHT.

GRAHH! ENOUGH!

CARNAGE WILL KILL US IF WE DO NOT RETURN WITH THE CHILD!

WE WILL NOT DIE TODAY!

Oh...

...I wouldn't bet on that.

Rifle to sonics. Maximum payload.

ACCEPTED.

BWARARARARHHH

WHA-- WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHERE... WHERE AM I? WHERE IS MY FAMILY?

...

Interesting.

You know... many people would view your age as a hindrance to this confrontation.

Rifle to live rounds.

ACCEPTED.

I am not one of them.

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AGH!

Agh!

BURN!

PHAGE, NOW! GO!

NO!

IT WILL BE OUR HONOR!

JUST STAY DOWN, NORMIE.

IF ANYTHING COMES THROUGH THERE...I'LL HANDLE IT.

DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO USE THAT?

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

BUT HOW HARD COULD IT--

KRAKKOOM

KRAKKOOM

DYLAN!

IT--IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY, IT'S JUST--

KRAKKOOM

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KRAKOOOOM

HELLO BOYS!

MIND IF WE COME IN?

NO!

D-DON'T. DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

YOU... CHILD! YOU SMELL OF OUR FATHER!

YOU REEK OF VENOM!

YOU, WE KILL FOR FUN.

THE GOBLIN BOY.

...HE DIES FOR CARNAGE!

FWAP

WHAT IS--

DON'T BE AFRAID, BOYS.

KRAK

SLUMP

MY NAME IS SLEEPER.

YOU CAN TRUST ME.

I'M FAMILY.

TO BE CONTINUED...

CLETUS' CLUBHOUSE

DANNY KHAZEM
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SEND EMAILS TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

Hello, Venomaniacs, and welcome to another installment of Cletus' Clubhouse!

And, unless you've been living under a rock, you already know that it's the summer of slaughter as ABSOLUTE CARNAGE continues.

If you're picking this issue up, you've probably been keeping up with the main event of the series—but if you haven't, GO BUY IT AND READ IT NOW! RIGHT NOW! You're probably terribly confused!

Are you all caught up? GOOD!

At the time of this writing, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and #2 and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1 have been sent to the printer but aren't on sale in comic shops yet! So we don't have any letters from you symbiotic superfans out there in Mighty Marveldom yet to flesh out this very letters page. BUT YOU CAN FIX THAT! Got a bone to pick about continuity? Drop us a line at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM and mark it "OKAY TO PRINT," and it may wind up in our next issue!

ITEM: Fortunately, for yours truly, there's no shortage of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE news to share, including some about this very comics mag!

This event is a love letter to all the Venom stories that have come before—a violent, scary love letter from a bloodthirsty extraterrestrial, but a love letter just the same.

But it's not enough for Donny and Ryan, with JP and Frank, to wax nostalgic. No way. This is a team of creators who are DEDICATED to bringing you as many scares and uncomfortable squirms that they can muster—and as you've seen for yourself, that's a lot.

If you thought what happened to Miles and Scorpion was bad, you may not be ready for what comes next!

ITEM: But amongst all the terror and action, we're also looking to EXPAND the Marvel Mythos wherever we can, and we've been lucky enough to expand the VENOM family with this event!

We knew from the beginning that we wanted Miles Morales to play a big part in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE. He and Venom have history, and he came face-to-face with Knull in Donny and Ryan's opening arc.

And the only man for bringing that story to life is Saladin Ahmed, the Eisner-winning writer of the ongoing Miles Morales series! Saladin obviously writes a great Miles/Spider-Man, but it's the way he writes Mac Gargan that REALLY excited me about being able to bring him into the fold of the event.

I dunno about you, but reading the script, I found Saladin's take on Mac TERRIFYING. It's not every day that you can reinvigorate a character who's been through so much as Mac, but here Saladin is, making him a bloodthirsty killer—and I'm HERE for it.

But comics are an illustrated medium, and for this series, we were lucky enough to be joined by Federico Vincentini, doing his first work for Marvel. This may be

his debut, but you'd never know it looking at Federico's pages. His work has a real energy and kineticism to it, and I can't wait for you to see what he's done in issue #2...!

Add in series editor Kathleen Wisneski, who knows the Spider-World inside and out, and you've got a recipe for a story that'll leave you reeling in the best way possible—and it's on sale RIGHT NOW!

ITEM: But a story all about Carnage wouldn't be complete without his cronies, and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS is all about 'em, and one of the most ruthless books I've ever worked on. The characters are creepy, the monsters are scary and there's a real grim energy to the whole thing.

(Maybe the demonic resurrection has something to do with that?)

When it came time to bring this story to life, we knew Frank Tieri was the only man for the job. The comics equivalent of a soldier of fortune, Frank came in on a chopper and wielding an M16—pitching a story about a mental asylum, a lycan and a whole lot of symbiote goo.

He's a madman, but I think you'll agree he's got the goods.

And so does illustrator Flaviano! Flaviano turned heads on BLACK WIDOW, and we knew his violent, moody sensibilities would breathe terrifying life into Frank's scripts! Just look at that Carnage/Demagoblin kiss—makes my SKIN CRAWL!

That's it for us in this one, Venomaniacs! Keep your eyes peeled at your local comic shop for the line of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE tie-ins as the summer of slaughter continues!

And remember: Tell your shop that you want the best, and this summer, the best is CARNAGE! #carnagerules

Stay Sharp,
Devin

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE CHECKLIST

AUGUST
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1
X VENOM #17

SEPTEMBER
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE:
GHOST RIDER - SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1
VENOM #18
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30

OCTOBER
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK #1
VENOM #19
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31

NOVEMBER
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5
VENOM #20